

VZCZCXYZ0007
OO RUEHWEB

DE RUEHSO #0060 0431519
ZNR UUUUU ZZH
O 121519Z FEB 08
FM AMCONSUL SAO PAULO
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7898
INFO RHEHNSC/NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL WASHDC IMMEDIATE
RUEHBR/AMEMBASSY BRASILIA PRIORITY 9050
RUEHRI/AMCONSUL RIO DE JANEIRO PRIORITY 8576
RUCPDOC/USDOC WASHDC 3025

UNCLAS SAO PAULO 000060

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STATE INR/R/MR; IIP/R/MR; WHA/PD

DEPT PASS USTR

USDOC 4322/MAC/OLAC/JAFEE
E.O. 12958: N/A
TAGS: [KMDR](#) [OPRC](#) [OIIP](#) [ETRD](#) [BR](#)
SUBJECT: MEDIA REACTION: GWOT: GUANTANAMO; SAO PAULO

"Closing Guantanamo"

Political writer Marcos Nobre maintained in liberal, largest national circulation daily Folha de S. Paulo (2/12): "The wars in Iraq and Afghanistan have practically disappeared from political debates in the US, as if the public opinion battle against Bush had already been won. But things are not that simple. Connected with Iraq is Guantanamo, the American base in Cuba where prisoners of what the conservatives call 'war against terror' have been kept. There has been torture in Guantanamo, and there the prisoners are not formally accused or have habeas corpus rights. The four main presidential candidates have already said that they favor the closing of that prison. Closing Guantanamo is certainly important, but it does not resolve a basic problem: the flagrant violation of fundamental rights.... And today Guantanamo is not an isolated case. France has just approved legislation allowing in principle to keep a prisoner in jail for life even after his punishment is over."

White